<u>In the claims:</u>

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1   1-33. (canceled).

1   34. (currently amended) A computer implemented method for comparing a first document and a

2   second document stored in a machine readable data storage medium or machine readable data

3   storage media, wherein the first and second documents comprise respective documents defined

4   using a markup language that defines characteristics of the documents used when rendering

5   images of the documents, and wherein the markup language comprises block level markup tags,

6   visual formatting markup tags, and sets of characters delineated by the markup tags, the sets of

7   characters including tags and text characters, the method comprising:

8   parsing, using a computer, the first document into a first plurality of groups of characters

9   delineated by block level markup tags;

10   parsing, using a computer, the second document into a second plurality of groups of

11   characters delineated by block level markup tags;

12   executing a routine using a computer to match groups in the first plurality of groups with

13   corresponding groups in the second plurality of groups, **and** to identify differences between said

14   groups in the first plurality of groups and matching groups in the second plurality of groups;

15   composing a difference document comprising a third plurality of groups that include

16   identified differences, and including elements that identify the differences; and

17   rendering an image of the difference document using a computer while preserving visual

18   formatting of one of the first and second documents, with visual features denoting the identified

19   differences.

1   35. (previously presented) The method of claim 34, wherein said routine identifies new groups in

2   the second plurality of groups, said difference document includes said new groups, and said

3   image includes features denoting said new groups.

1 36. (previously presented) The method of claim 34, including normalizing the first and second
2 documents by removing characters ignored during rendering and characters that define format
3 information not relevant to said matching.

1 37. (previously presented) The method of claim 34, including executing a routine using a
2 computer, prior to said matching to identify differences, to remove characters that comprise
3 intra-document links in the markup language, and to convert relative URLs to absolute URLs.

1 38. (previously presented) The method of claim 34, wherein said markup language comprises an
2 HTML standard markup language.

1 39. (previously presented) The method of claim 34, including normalizing the first and second
2 documents, by detecting a pre-formatting start tag and skipping the pre-formatted text contained
3 between the start tag and a pre-formatting end tag.

1 40. (previously presented) The method of claim 34, including normalizing the first and second
2 documents, by removing header tags from the documents.

1 41. (previously presented) The method of claim 34, including normalizing the first and second
2 documents, by removing script references from the documents.

1 42. (previously presented) The method of claim 34, including normalizing the first and second
2 documents, by removing intra-document links from the documents.

1 43. (currently amended) A computer system, comprising:
2   a data processor, including a data storage medium and an image output device, the data
3 storage medium having computer programs executable by a data processor stored thereon, the
4 computer programs including instructions for:
5   parsing the first document into a first plurality of groups of characters delineated by block
6 level markup tags;
7   parsing the second document into a second plurality of groups of characters delineated by
8 block level markup tags;

9   matching groups in the first plurality of groups with corresponding groups in the second

10   plurality of groups, ~~to identify~~ and identifying differences between said groups in the first

11   plurality of groups and matching groups in the second plurality of groups;

12   composing a difference document comprising a third plurality of groups of characters

13   groups that include identified differences, and including elements that identify the differences;

14   and

15   rendering an image on the image output device of the difference document while

16   preserving visual formatting of one of the first and second documents, with visual features

17   denoting the identified differences.

1   44. (previously presented) The computer system of claim 43, wherein said matching identifies

2   new groups in the second plurality of groups, said difference document includes said new

3   groups, and said image includes features denoting said new groups.

1   45. (previously presented) The computer system of claim 43, wherein the computer programs

2   include instructions for normalizing the first and second documents by removing characters

3   ignored during rendering and characters that define format information not relevant to said

4   matching.

1   46. (previously presented) The computer system of claim 43, wherein the computer programs

2   include instructions for removing prior to said matching to identify differences, to characters that

3   comprise intra-document links in the markup language, and to convert relative URLs to absolute

4   URLs.

1   47. (previously presented) The computer system of claim 43, wherein said markup language

2   comprises an HTML standard markup language.

1   48. (previously presented) The computer system of claim 43, wherein the computer programs

2   include instructions for normalizing the first and second documents, by detecting a pre-

3   formatting start tag and skipping the pre-formatted text contained between the start tag and a pre-

4   formatting end tag.

1   49. (previously presented) The computer system of claim 43, wherein the computer programs

2   include instructions for normalizing the first and second documents, by removing header tags

3   from the documents.

1   50. (previously presented) The computer system of claim 43, wherein the computer programs

2   include instructions for normalizing the first and second documents, by removing script

3   references from the documents.

1   51. (previously presented) The computer system of claim 43, wherein the computer programs

2   include instructions for normalizing the first and second documents, by removing intra-document

3   links from the documents.

1   52. (currently amended) An article of manufacture, comprising a machine readable data storage

2   medium having stored thereon computer programs executable by a data processor, the computer

3   programs including instructions for:

4   parsing the first document into a first plurality of groups of characters delineated by block

5   level markup tags;

6   parsing the second document into a second plurality of groups of characters delineated by

7   block level markup tags;

8   matching groups in the first plurality of groups with corresponding groups in the second

9   plurality of groups, ~~to identify~~ and identifying differences between said groups in the first

10   plurality of groups and matching groups in the second plurality of groups;

11   composing a difference document comprising a third plurality of groups that include

12   identified differences, and including elements denoting the differences; and

13   rendering an image of the difference document while preserving visual formatting of one

14   of the first and second documents, with visual features denoting the identified differences.

1   53. (previously presented) The article of claim 52, wherein said matching identifies new groups

2   in the second plurality of groups, said difference document includes said new groups, and said

3   image includes features denoting said new groups.

1   54. (previously presented) The article of claim 52, wherein the computer programs include
2   instructions for normalizing the first and second documents by removing characters ignored
3   during rendering and characters that define format information not relevant to said matching.

1   55. (previously presented) The article of claim 52, wherein the computer programs include
2   instructions for removing prior to said matching to identify differences, to characters that
3   comprise intra-document links in the markup language, and to convert relative URLs to absolute
4   URLs.

1   56. (previously presented) The article of claim 52, wherein said markup language comprises an
2   HTML standard markup language.

1   57. (previously presented) The article of claim 52, wherein the computer programs include
2   instructions for normalizing the first and second documents, by detecting a pre-formatting start
3   tag and skipping the pre-formatted text contained between the start tag and a pre-formatting end
4   tag.

1   58. (previously presented) The article of claim 52, wherein the computer programs include
2   instructions for normalizing the first and second documents, by removing header tags from the
3   documents.

1   59. (previously presented) The article of claim 52, wherein the computer programs include
2   instructions for normalizing the first and second documents, by removing script references from
3   the documents.

1   60. (previously presented) The article of claim 52, wherein the computer programs include
2   instructions for normalizing the first and second documents, by removing intra-document links
3   from the documents.

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